



The Catholic High School of Baltimore **Summer Reading Assignment**

Teacher's Name: Mr. Derosier

School Year: 2023-2024

Grade Level: 11

Course No.: 132

Course Name: British Literature & Composition

Academic Level (Honors/AP/CP/CPA): CP

ASSIGNED READING

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

ISBN-13: 978-0547928227

ASSIGNMENT

While reading *The Hobbit*, it is important that you not only read but read to understand. Therefore, I encourage you to annotate as you read. Annotating is an active learning strategy that helps a reader truly absorb a book and understand the characters, underlying layers, words with which you are unfamiliar, etc. If you do not like writing in books or if you are reading an ebook, you can keep a separate notebook for the notes you take as you read. You can even write on sticky notes and add them into the book. You will not be graded on your annotations and/or notes, but they will help you remember what you thought as you read, important moments in the plot, characters, and themes much more easily.

If you find it helpful, you may read while listening to an unabridged audiobook of *The Hobbit*.

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Before you begin reading *The Hobbit*, please watch the following videos:

J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of Worlds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKHmC8CmBeU>

The Hero's Journey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGV1BvnyvGo>

After reading *The Hobbit*, respond (in a typed document) to each of the assignment prompts below.

Be sure to follow these formatting guidelines:

- Use an easily readable font like 12 pt Times New Roman.
- Include a properly formatted MLA header on the first page of your document using double spaces between each.
- Separate your responses to each assignment prompt by using subheadings.

Per The Catholic High School of Baltimore's Honor Code, your work must be your own. Any type of academic dishonesty in completing this assignment will result in an automatic failing grade and a referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

I am not providing you with a word count for each response, but my advice to you is to make sure that your responses are well-written, well-thought out, and demonstrate to me that you have actually read the book.

Prompt 1

Explain the identifying physical and lifestyle characteristics of each group from the *The Hobbit* that is listed below and comment on the values of wealth, war, and relationships for the groups:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| ● dwarves | ● men of the lake |
| ● elves | ● trolls |
| ● hobbits | ● goblins |

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Prompt 2

Discuss Bilbo's definition of friendship and to what extent the dwarves are his friends. Support your response with examples and specific references to the book.

Prompt 3

Select three characters from this story who you think demonstrate heroic qualities. Use incidents from the story to discuss why, in your opinion, each of the characters you select qualifies as a hero.

Prompt 4

What do you think is Tolkien's definition of evil? Which of the races in this story are evil and why? Support your response with examples and specific references to the book.

Due Date: This assignment is due on or before the first day of class.

ASSESSMENT

There will be a closed book test on *The Hobbit* during the first two weeks of the school year.

COMMUNICATION

I check my email regularly. If you need to contact me over the summer, my email address is **sderosier@thecatholichighschool.org**